

# State of Alaska

## Department of Labor and Workforce Development

<b>Division:</b> Business Partnerships	<b>Policy No.:</b> 304.00 - <b>DRAFT</b>
<b>Subject:</b> WIA Self-Sufficiency Definition	<b>Pages:</b> 2
<b>Reference:</b> Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Sections 101(24), 101(25)(B); 20 CFR, Subpart D, Preamble, 663.230; Department of Health and Human Services Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines Federal Register / Vol. 69, No. 30 / Friday, February 13, 2004; Training and Employment Information Notice 29-9.	<b>Effective Date:</b> 3/5/04
	<b>Revised:</b>
<b>Approved:</b> _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Katherine Farnham, Executive Director, Division of Business Partnerships</span> <span>Date</span> </div>	

### 1. **Parties Affected**

- a) Grant recipients of the Division of Business Partnerships (DBP)
  - i) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Subgrantees and Program Participants
    - (1) Adult Programs
    - (2) Dislocated Worker Programs
    - (3) National Emergency Grant Programs
    - (4) Rapid Response Programs

### 2. **Purpose**

This policy defines self-sufficiency and income as it applies to Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title IB programs in Alaska. The Alaska Workforce Investment Board has set this criteria for determining eligibility for use in WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Rapid Response and National Emergency Grant programs. Grant recipients may use the income thresholds in this policy to determine if a potential Adult registrant qualifies as eligible under a priority of service, and if potential Adult or Dislocated Worker registrants are eligible for WIA staff-assisted services beyond Core-A. The AWIB bases its self-sufficiency definition for adults on 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for family size issued through the Department of Health and Human Services, which are updated annually. The AWIB defines self-sufficiency for Dislocated Workers as 80% of the participant's wage at layoff.

### 3. **Definitions**

- a) *Poverty Guidelines* are a version of the federal poverty measure issued annually by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Federal Register. The guidelines are used for administrative purposes such as determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. The most recent Poverty guidelines are available at:  
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>
- b) *Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)* - the Secretary of Labor annually determines the LLSIL for several uses under WIA. WIA defines the term "Low Income Individual" as one who qualifies under various criteria, including an individual who received income for a six-month period that does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the LLSIL.

- c) *Self-sufficiency* is criteria established by the AWIB for determining whether employment leads to the ability to support oneself and/or one's family. WIA requires that local boards define self-sufficiency, which must be employment that pays at least 100 percent of the LLSIL. Self-sufficiency for dislocated workers may be defined as a percentage of the layoff wage.
  - i) The AWIB may set a higher standard to define the minimum amount of cash resources needed in the local area for a family to meet its basic needs and be self-sufficient. For purposes of eligibility, grantees must determine that the registrant is in need of intensive services to achieve self-sufficiency.

#### 4. **Policy**

- a) *Self-sufficiency* for individuals participating in the *Adult* Program is 175 percent of federal DHHS poverty guidelines for Alaska for family size.
- b) *Self-sufficiency* for individuals participating in the *Dislocated Worker* Program is 80% of the participant's wage at layoff.

#### 5. **Responsibilities**

- a) ***Coordination.*** Grant recipients must coordinate activities with one-stop providers to ensure non-duplication when determining whether family income meets the definition of self-sufficiency.
- b) ***Eligibility.*** Grant recipients must consider the definition of self-sufficiency when effecting determinations of eligibility.
  - i) Grant recipients may provide exceptions for up to ten percent of registrants under certain circumstances.
    - (1) Registrants must face a barrier to employment, such as a disability, higher cost of living, transportation, or childcare.
      - (a) Grant recipients should refer to the adult or dislocated worker eligibility policies for further direction on exceptions to the self-sufficiency level.
- c) ***Income.*** Grant recipients must refer to DBP Policy Number 306.00 for determining what is (and is not) included in the definition of income.